

Matthew - The Background of Jesus  
March 2, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

### Open Up:

- Do you have a favorite book in the bible? What is it, and what do you love about it?

### Read Together:

#### Matthew 1:1-2

This is **the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah** the **son of David**, the son of **Abraham**: Abraham was the father of **Isaac**, Isaac the father of **Jacob**, Jacob the father of **Judah** and his brothers

#### Matthew 2:11

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they **bowed down** and **worshiped him**. Then they opened their treasures and **presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh**.

#### Matthew 2:2

...**"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?** We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

#### Matthew 3:17

And a voice from heaven said, **"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."**

#### Matthew 4:8-9

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **"All this I will give you,"** he said, **"if you will bow down and worship me."**

### **Discuss Together:**

- How does Jesus' genealogy connect him to the story of Israel? Why is this significant?
- The genealogy of Jesus includes unexpected people—women, foreigners, and those with broken pasts. What does this teach us about God's Kingdom and who He includes?
- How does Jesus' baptism parallel Israel's story in the Old Testament? What does this tell us about his mission?
- What was the Jewish expectation for a Messiah, and how does Matthew claim that Jesus fulfills this role?
- Matthew highlights how God brings redemption out of failure. Can you think of a time when God used a failure in your life for something greater?
- What is the significance of the Magi worshiping Jesus and bringing him gifts? How do you personally respond to Jesus in your life?
- How does Jesus' use of Scripture in resisting temptation serve as a model for us today?

### **Pray:**

How does this message lead you to pray this week?